

The new government established a Department of Antiquities, headed by a professional archeologist who had oversight of all archeological work in the country. Anyone desiring to excavate had to secure permission from the Department, and was required to show that the work would be competently directed. This was important, because once a tell is excavated it can never be done again. As long as it stands untouched, its valuable information about ancient times continues to be preserved. Once it is excavated, whatever has not been learned is gone forever. Each excavation that has been well conducted has given knowledge by means of which the next one can be done still better and can yield still greater results in the increase of our knowledge of ancient times. The Department not only required proof that an expedition would be directed by properly trained men, it also required evidence that sufficient funds were in hand to carry through to a proper conclusion whatever work was begun. It would require a well-financed organization to excavate a large mound. A small mound might be undertaken by a much smaller organization.

Another feature of very great importance at this time was the improvement in the cooperation between the different groups working in Palestine. Previous excavations had been in charge of men from a number of different nations, some of which hated each other. Even groups from the same nation were sometimes very jealous of one another. The American School of Oriental Research did much to promote the development of a spirit of cooperation among the different groups. Much credit is due here to Dr. William Foxwell Albright, who was director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem from 1921 to 1929. Professor Albright gained the confidence of most of the various groups engaged in Palestinian excavation. They knew that they could trust him not to publish anything that he learned from their excavations until they had published it first. Conse-